

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Jing Gui

Prior Application:

Appln. No.:

Filed : Herewith

Group Art Unit: 2754

For : SLIDER WITH PRESSURE RELIEF
TRENCHES

Examiner: R. Tupper

Docket No.: S01.12-0695

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 3, after "This application" insert -is a
divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.
09/157,700, filed September 21, 1998 which--uspat 6,188,547

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1-20.

Please add new claims 21-34 as follows:

--21. A slider for supporting a transducer element for a data storage system comprising:

a rigid member including opposed leading and trailing edges and opposed upper and lower surfaces, the lower surface including an air bearing surface; landing pads extending from the air bearing surface and spaced from the trailing edge of the rigid member to define a contact interface with a disc surface; a raised side rail on the air bearing surface; and at least one pressure relief trench formed in the raised side rail proximate to the trailing edge of the rigid member and spaced from the landing pads to reduce capillary pressure and area of a meniscus due